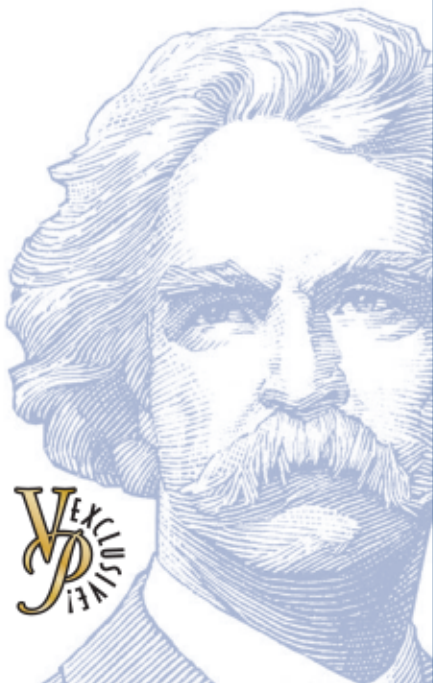
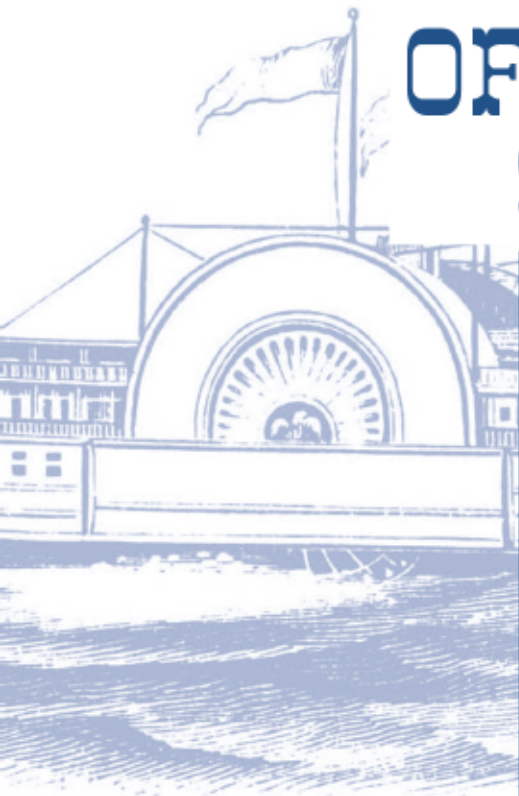




THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

COMPREHENSION GUIDE



THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Comprehension Guide
by Chris Oberholtzer
and Ned Bustard

Veritas
Press

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THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

How to use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand and enjoy *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* or *The Case for Classical Christian Education*, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

1. Fluently read a given selection orally.
2. Show an increased desire for reading.
3. Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
4. Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
5. Identify basic biblical values in the literature being read.
6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. Although the answers in the guide appear in an abbreviated form, the students' answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

Example:

Question: What did Becky do to make Tom jealous?

Answer: To make Tom jealous, Becky looked at a book with Alfred Temple.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write.

You may wonder how to grade the student's work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth five points.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Preface and Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*?

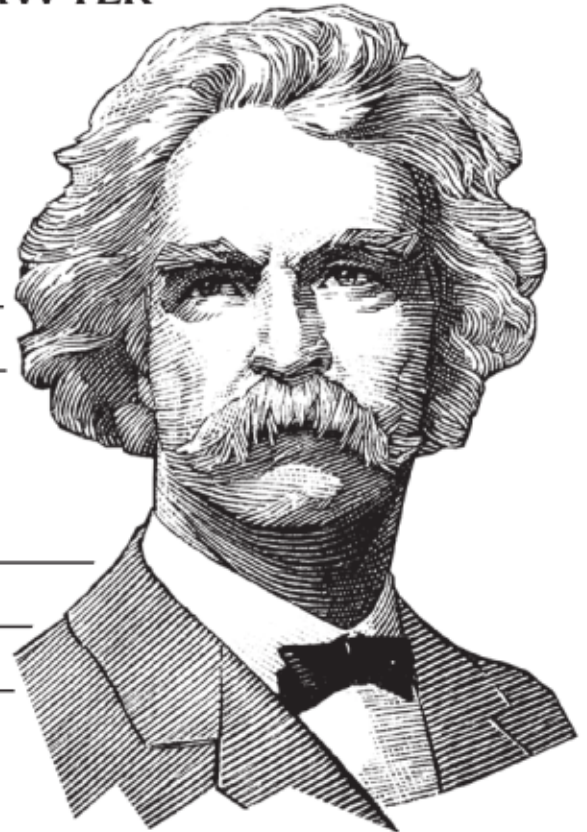
2. What was the author's pen name and what does it mean?

3. Where did the author get the ideas for Tom and Huck?

4. Who was responsible for rearing Tom Sawyer? Why?

5. Who was Sid?

6. Explain how Aunt Polly knew that Tom played hooky and went swimming.



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Preface and Chapter 1, Page 2

7. Describe the stranger.

8. Explain Tom's encounter with the stranger.

9. Who won the fight between the stranger and Tom?

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Chapter 2

1. What was Tom's Saturday punishment for staying out late the night before?

2. What deal did Tom try to make with Jim to get out of doing his punishment?

3. What was Ben pretending to be as he came down the street? Describe his impersonation.

4. Who was Tom's first victim in the whitewashing scam?



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Project—Robert Fulton

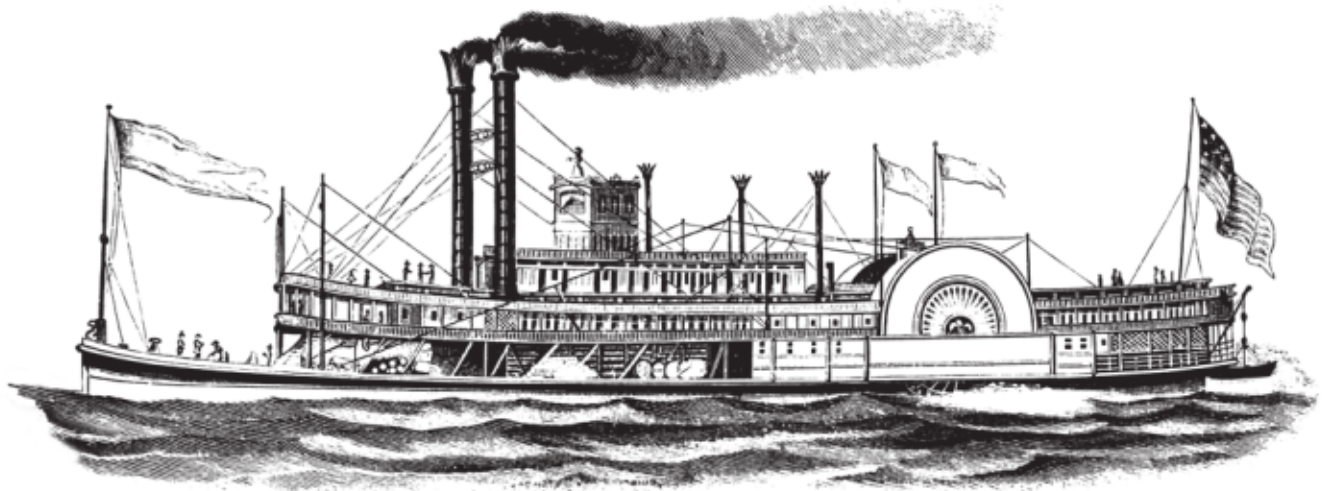
The steamboat overshadows the story of Tom Sawyer. Research the artist/engineer who is credited for developing the first commercially successful steamboat.



DATES

BIRTHPLACE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Chapter 3

1. What reward did Aunt Polly give Tom for doing such a great job on the fence?

2. Who was the General of the opposing army? Which army won?

3. Describe the new girl.

4. What did Tom think of the new girl? Explain.

5. What did the new girl do to show Tom how she felt about him?

6. Who got punished when Sid broke the sugar bowl?

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Chapter 3, Page 2

7. What happened to Tom when he sat under the window of the house where his "adored unknown" lived?



THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Project—Journal for the Adventure

As you read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, keep this adventure journal with you. Make each journal entry a summary of a main event in the story. On the first page of the journal, keep a list of the main characters. For the first journal entry, summarize Chapters 1 to 3. Continue to make journal entries of main events as you read.

Supplies

2 sheets of 12" x 18" construction paper

tape

scissors

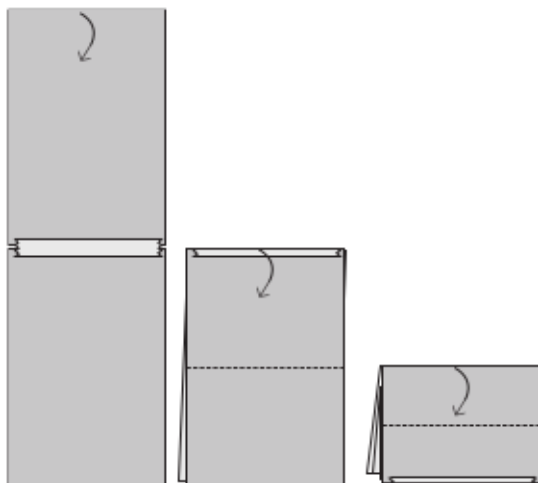
crayons or markers

glue

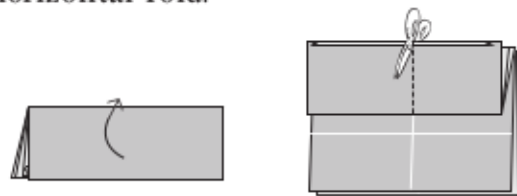
photocopy of journal pages (to follow)

Directions

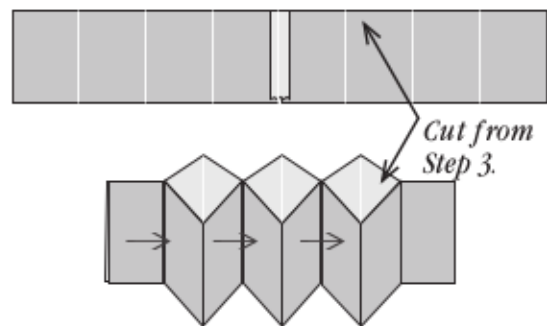
1. Tape 2 pieces of construction paper together creating a single long sheet (12" x 36").
2. Fold the construction paper three times as shown.



3. Unfold the top two sections and cut all the top sections in half as shown, stopping at the horizontal fold.



4. Unfold the paper completely and then re-fold in half lengthwise. Push in the ends to create the mini-journal. Refold the interior creases as necessary.

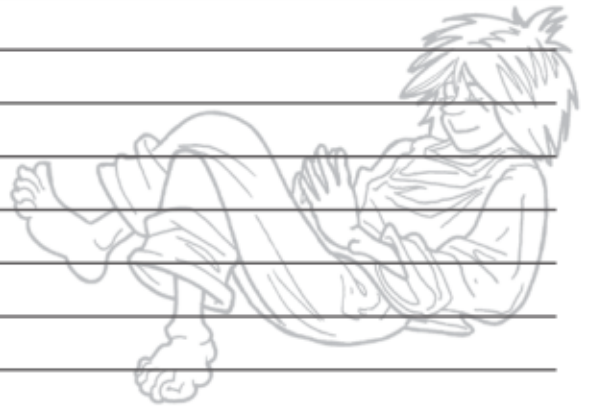


5. Cut journal pages, and color the cover, if desired. Glue cover and pages into the mini-journal.
6. Begin writing in journal and continue to add entries as you read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.



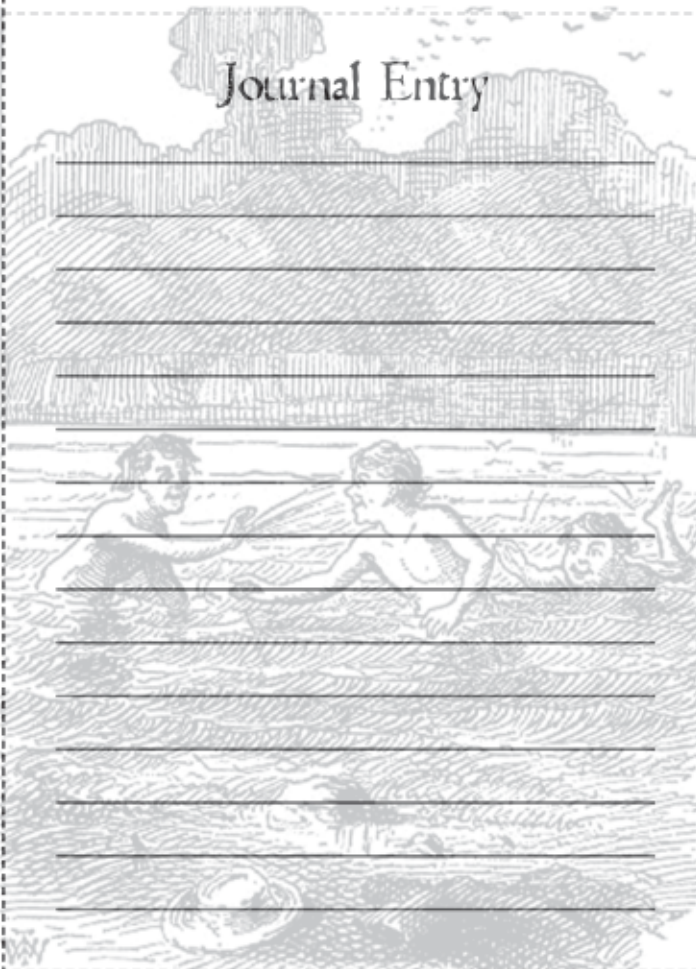
Journal Entry

Journal Entry



Journal Entry

Journal Entry





Huck Finn and
Tom Sawyer swears
they will keep mum
about this and they
wish they may Drop
the lead in their
Tops if they ever
Till and

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